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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 23, 2005

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Fair Week for Field Work: Rain and cloud coverage late in the week made it hard to work in the field. Although a few days were not suitable for field work, all conditions (including soil moisture, soybeans, wheat, quality of hay made, and pastures) showed certain degrees of improvement. Temperatures reached the 70's early in the week but rapidly declined as the week went on and the damp weather made its way here. It seems the fall season has definitely made its presence. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting apples and grapes, planting barley and wheat, harvesting corn, harvesting soybeans, and finishing alfalfa's fourth cutting.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 23, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	11	69	19

Crops: Fall plowing remains at 68 percent complete, behind last year's pace as well as the five year average. Ninety-seven percent of the soybean crop is dropping leaves slower, than last year at this time, even though 43 percent of the crop is now harvested, which is ahead of the previous year's pace. Soybean conditions were showing better quality from last week as 63 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. The corn crop has fully matured and 67 percent of corn for grain is now harvested, well ahead of the 5-year average. Ninety-seven percent of next year's barley crop is planted, and 80 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Winter wheat is now at 81 percent planted as 52 percent of the crop has already emerged. The 4th cutting of alfalfa pushes forward at 91 percent completion. The quality of hay made this week rose from last week's and was rated with the following conditions: 7 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

Eighty percent of the apple crop is now harvested. The grape harvest is coming along nicely as 85 percent of the crop has been harvested.

Livestock: Rainfall improved conditions compared to last week's poor figures, but too much rain may have done more damage than it had helped. Pastures are still not considered to be in great quality, especially with lack of sunlight. Pasture conditions rated with the following: 12 percent very poor, 33 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 19 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

U.S. as of October 16, 2005: Highlights: For the second time in a week, heavy rainfall and flooding struck the Northeast. Weekly rainfall topped 4 inches from New Jersey and northeastern Pennsylvania into southern and central Maine, boosting month-to-date totals to 10 inches or more. Through October 15, monthly rainfall records were already established in several locations, including Philadelphia, PA (6.94 inches; previously, 6.66 inches in 1902) and Allentown, PA (10.93 inches; previously, 7.64 inches in 1943). Heavy rainfall in the Northeast caused some flooding but was generally favorable for pastures in the region. Corn: Forty-nine percent of the acreage had been harvested, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal. Progress was ahead of normal in the central Corn Belt and Ohio Valley but trailed behind the normal pace in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains. Soybeans: Growers had harvested 76 percent of their acreage, compared with 69 percent last year and 9 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest progressed rapidly in the Corn Belt, aided by mild, dry conditions. Progress was near or ahead of normal in all States, with harvest the farthest ahead in the Delta, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Winter Wheat: Planting was 78 percent complete, which is 1 point ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Encouraged by warm, sunny weather, producers in the Corn Belt planted their crop rapidly. Meanwhile, acreage emerged advanced to 50 percent, 5 points behind last year and 2 points behind the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 23, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 23, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	68	37	52	-1	0.72	4	20.69	-4.77	68	3,133	523	4,999
Franklin	69	35	49	-1	1.01	5	24.50	-2.61	107	2,764	376	4,669
Meadville	67	34	48	0	0.61	5	24.17	-3.20	78	2,867	681	4,766
Mercer	70	36	49	0	0.91	3	25.31	-0.46	101	2,866	501	4,749
Springboro	69	33	48	-3	0.90	5	26.96	2.41	86	2,620	64	4,459
Warren	68	33	48	0	0.98	3	23.57	-3.89	79	2,722	417	4,604
North Central												
Bradford Region	66	29	46	2	1.33	5	27.18	-0.07	93	2,118	468	3,903
Emporium	72	35	49	4	1.57	4	20.33	-6.54	85	2,726	847	4,612
Kane	68	30	46	2	1.07	3	22.78	-5.11	73	2,029	419	3,808
Laporte	66	35	47	-2	1.30	3	28.38	3.14	91	2,416	59	4,241
Lock Haven	76	38	52	3	0.95	2	17.10	-7.63	72	3,127	618	5,073
Port Allegany	68	31	47	1	1.16	5	22.00	-3.96	81	2,317	490	4,117
Renovo	74	37	51	2	1.19	3	15.67	-9.06	70	3,070	561	5,013
Ridgway	70	31	47	1	1.12	4	22.89	-3.98	79	2,367	488	4,214
Stevenson Dam	73	37	51	6	1.52	3	19.64	-7.23	79	2,905	1,026	4,830
Towanda	72	35	50	2	1.43	4	21.29	0.32	73	2,857	480	4,759
Wellsboro	70	32	47	2	1.24	4	25.79	4.66	73	2,253	483	4,049
Williamsport	75	38	52	3	0.77	3	26.25	1.68	61	3,324	557	5,285
Northeast												
Hawley	70	35	48	0	1.68	3	25.70	1.94	74	2,539	512	4,398
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	72	39	51	1	0.97	4	18.82	-4.27	71	3,390	767	5,345
Susquehanna	67	35	48	2	1.46	4	27.11	1.54	85	2,710	796	4,589
West Central												
Butler	71	33	49	0	1.18	3	22.66	-2.82	79	2,913	434	4,861
New Castle	71	36	51	3	0.77	3	25.39	1.97	75	3,198	714	5,152
Slippery Rock	71	36	51	3	1.06	3	24.11	-0.87	79	2,976	752	4,939
Central												
Altoona/Blair	76	38	50	0	0.23	3	12.78	-9.68	56	2,880	242	4,811
DuBois	68	35	48	0	1.26	6	21.61	-4.02	103	2,675	410	4,577
Lewistown	78	42	53	3	0.89	3	21.18	-2.84	66	3,302	403	5,282
Middletown	74	43	54	2	1.13	3	22.17	-1.73	60	3,890	604	5,913
Prince Gallitzi	73	33	47	-2	0.81	2	19.38	-9.32	77	2,490	373	4,363
Selinsgrove	75	40	52	3	1.09	3	23.53	-1.52	68	3,185	489	5,142
State College	74	42	51	2	0.83	3	16.69	-5.98	77	3,094	505	5,056
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	73	42	54	3	1.15	4	31.27	5.31	70	3,516	520	5,512
Lehighton	67	40	52	1	1.39	4	27.53	1.52	72	3,120	234	5,091
Matamoras	71	37	50	0	1.65	3	36.08	9.90	81	2,769	178	4,680
Tobyhanna	70	41	51	6	1.27	3	32.71	4.57	101	3,076	1,336	5,034
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	75	39	51	1	0.97	3	17.81	-5.89	80	3,512	850	5,510
Derry	75	41	52	3	0.81	3	21.74	-2.85	67	3,006	497	4,969
Myersdale	73	36	49	-1	0.83	3	18.82	-8.12	71	2,335	-140	4,191
Mount Pleasant	76	35	50	3	1.15	3	23.86	-4.25	84	2,890	651	4,850
Pittsburgh Intl	74	38	51	-1	0.89	3	21.60	-0.50	73	3,332	545	5,310
Rector	74	39	50	3	1.13	3	22.77	-5.34	100	2,916	677	4,871
Waynesburg	78	35	50	2	0.85	3	19.10	-4.95	72	3,046	474	5,013
South Central												
Biglerville	76	43	53	1	1.32	3	27.39	4.56	71	3,428	216	5,426
Everett	73	35	50	-1	1.54	3	15.46	-6.54	63	2,408	-226	4,294
Hanover	75	42	54	2	1.17	3	27.35	4.52	63	3,404	192	5,395
Shippensburg	80	42	54	1	1.16	3	25.33	3.14	76	3,459	258	5,445
South Mountain	71	41	50	-1	0.97	3	25.74	3.28	66	2,896	267	4,884
York	75	38	54	2	1.29	3	21.40	-2.78	57	3,454	245	5,445
Southeast												
Green Lane	72	43	54	4	1.26	4	27.30	2.16	67	3,489	629	5,494
Hamburg	75	40	53	5	1.64	4	25.93	-3.27	66	3,489	900	5,485
Hopewell	73	43	54	0	1.19	3	30.41	4.04	89	3,505	113	5,511
Lancaster	74	43	54	3	1.24	3	27.42	1.98	64	3,605	574	5,606
Neshaminy Falls	72	41	54	3	1.29	2	31.09	2.10	60	3,329	340	5,309
New Holland	76	42	55	3	1.23	2	30.26	4.82	63	3,680	649	5,684
Philadelphia	75	47	57	3	0.91	3	24.93	0.40	62	4,140	624	6,187
Philadelphia NE	75	45	57	3	1.18	2	28.01	3.48	63	4,016	500	6,052
Reading	75	43	55	4	1.25	3	24.48	-2.52	65	3,769	801	5,776
Valley Forge Na	74	40	54	-1	1.29	2	25.64	-0.73	50	3,352	-40	5,327
Willow Grove	71	46	55	3	1.12	2	25.64	-3.35	48	3,685	696	5,706

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - This week's daytime temperatures for majority of the week were 70 degrees. Nighttime temps were around 50 degrees. Harvesting continued this week of soybeans, corn and apples after being halted a few days due to excessive rainfall on October 7-8. Additional wheat acreage was also planted this week. Some wheat has emerged that was planted earlier but some also being replanted. This rainfall today may cause washouts or crusting of soil where wheat was seeded this week and may not emerge correctly. Adams County is receiving a significant rainfall today and is supposed to continue throughout the weekend. This will delay field work again and could cause more soybeans to lodge due to heavy rainfall.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - Another 1+ inches of rain this week has helped the winter wheat and barley. Several dry days early in the week helped to finish up the soybeans harvest and make the final wheat plantings. Soybean yield has been about normal, but the beans are smaller than usual.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - Recent moisture has slowed harvest activity considerably.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - First part of the week was good for field work. Rains during the last few days was certainly need but slowed field activity. I had a total of 1 inch rain fall in my rain gauge.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Moisture improved greatly while I was away. Corn yields better than expected in this area.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Axel Linde - More cover crops are being planted this year and they are finally looking green. Pastures are recovering nicely, but now they are getting muddy again. Some local corn farmers are recording their best harvest year. Others were having trouble with weed control.

LANCASTER COUNTY, BURELLWHITWORTH JR (NRCS) - Rain finally has come to help winter grains and cover crops to emerge. We hope more cover crops can be planted to help protect the soil over the winter months. Corn and soybean harvest was slowed by the weather. Well, we can't have everything!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Fields dried off enough this week to get some more corn and beans off until Friday when the rains returned. Harvesting and wheat planting will slow if another inch or two of rain falls across the country. Still a good bit of wheat was intended to be planted, but it's uncertain if that will be planted with another inch or two of rain in the forecast for Tuesday. Corn yields are about average or slightly above and soybeans are a little above average this season.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The wheat and barley fields are looking good with the moisture and warm temperatures. Corn and soybean harvest is going along very well with yields being better than anticipated. The rain on Friday and Saturday has put a halt to the field activities; with rainfall amounts in the one to one and one-half inch range. The main activities for the week were planting wheat and harvesting corn and soybeans.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 23, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	68	83	69
Corn, harvested	67	55	48
Barley, planted	97	99	91
Barley, emerged	80	83	75
Wheat, planted	81	82	78
Wheat, emerged	52	51	53
Soybeans, harvested	43	31	34
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	91	83	83
Apples, harvested	80	100	90
Grapes, harvested	85	97	89

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 23, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	2	16	67	15
Soybeans	3	8	26	50	13
Quality of hay made	0	7	29	51	13
Pasture	12	33	34	19	2

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